



GOSSIP GIRL



Gossip is Good – level 3



26-03-2020 15:00

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Those who feel a little guilty about gossiping may be pleased to know that **academics** have now said that it is actually what sets our species apart from animals.

Gossip is what makes people human, because it allows us to pass on **vital** information on who to trust and who not to trust, as well as bond with family and friends.

In evolutionary biology, scientists call the **phenomenon** gossip theory. The theory suggests that as language developed, it allowed early humans to pass on reliable information so that they could live in ever-increasing groups. Gossiping used to be simply what people did with their friends and was not used in a negative sense until the 18th century.

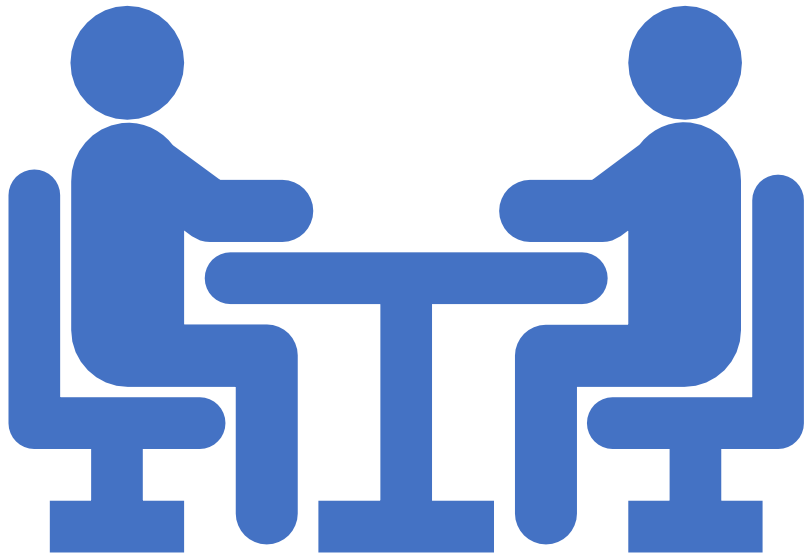
Scientists carried out experiments to find out what people thought about gossips, and the results were that while people distrust those who gossip too much, they were also **wary** of those who gossip too little.

Professor Robin Dunbar at Oxford University even said that we should accept gossiping as a vital part of human life, which might even help us live longer. He said that the most important thing apart from not smoking that will **prevent** you from dying early is the size of your social network.

Difficult words: **academics** (researchers and professors), **vital** (important), **phenomenon** (an event), **wary** (to be careful about a possible danger), **prevent** (to keep from happening).

Quick Check

- How is gossiping make us human?
- Why didn't early humans consider gossiping negative?
- What did the scientists find out after carrying out an experiment?
- What did a professor from Oxford University suggest about gossiping?
- Does the size of your social network has something to do with your life span? What is it?



Conversation Questions

- Are there any differences between gossip and lies?
- How do you tell if the information/news that you receive is reliable?
- Do you agree with the article?
- What other unusual ways do you know to live a longer life?
- How do you make friends?

Useful words/phrases

- Guilty (adj) 'gɪlti
- Pass on (v) pæs ɒn
- Ever-increasing (adj) 'evər-ɪn'kriːsɪŋ
- Negative sense (adj) 'nɛɡətɪv sɛns
- Accept (v) æk'sɛpt
- Social network (n) 'səʊʃəl 'netwɜːrk

